

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01565 112114Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 L-03 HA-05 /050 W  
-----074694 112117Z /65

P R 111431Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LOME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4134  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC TO  
SUBJ: PARTY DECISION TO ABOLISH CERTAIN TOGOLESE RELIGIOUS  
SECTS

1. TOGO-PRESSE ON MAY 10 PUBLISHED A RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS  
(RPT) TO THE POLITICAL BUREAU THAT ACTIVITIES OF 17 RELIGIOUS  
GROUPS BE PROSCRIBED IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC ORDER AND NATIONAL  
SECURITY. THE COUNCIL EXEMPTED FROM THE BAN TOGO'S THREE  
MAJOR RELIGIONS-CATHOLICISM, PROTESTANTISM AND ISLAM--  
AND SPECIFICALLY APPROVED THREE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHES: AFRICAN CHURCH OF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD,  
TOGOLESE ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION AND BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOGO.

2. RPT NATIONAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDED PROSCRIPTION OF  
FOLLOWING SECTS: TOGOLESE APOSTOLIC CHURCH, ASSOCIATION  
OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, CHURCH OF HEAVENLY CHRISTIANITY,  
UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN MISSION, CHRISTIAN GOSPEL  
CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, CHURCH OF THE  
SACRED ORDER OF THE ETERNAL CHERUBIN AND SERAPHIN (ALLADURA),  
SACRED ORDER OF DELIVERANCE, TOGOLESE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,  
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SPIRITUAL BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST, REDEMPTION CHURCH,  
ASSOCIATION OF HEALERS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHITE CROSS,  
HOSANNA, AND HEAVENLY CHURCH. LIST ENDS WITH CONSPICUOUS  
"ET CETERA."

3. REVIEW OF CONSULAR FILES INDICATES AT LEAST THREE AMCITS AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS SEVEN MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION, WHICH EMBASSY ASSUMES WILL BE ADOPTED AS RECOMMENDED BY RPT POLITICAL BUREAU. THREE PERSONS AFFECTED ARE MISSIONARIES ASSOCIATED WITH PENTECOSTAL CHURCH IN SOKODE. REMAINING FOUR PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM (ABWE), WHICH IS ENGAGED IN TRANSLATING EWE LANGUAGE INTO BRAILLE AND PLANS OPEN CENTER FOR BLIND IN PALIME LATER THIS YEAR. AS ABWE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOGO, SOME DOUBT REMAINS WHETHER THIS ORGANIZATION IS OR IS NOT PROSCRIBED.

4. NOT INCLUDED IN EITHER LIST, BUT PERHAPS COVERED BY THE ETC., IS THE BAHAI FAITH ON BEHALF OF WHICH SEVERAL AMERICANS ARE WORKING IN TOGO. AFTER THE LAMA KARA CONGRESS RESOLUTION, THE BAHAI SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THEIR ACTIVITIES WOULD BE AFFECTED AND WERE TOLD BY A HIGH MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OFFICIAL THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHOUT CHANGE. MOST US MISSIONARIES IN TOGO ARE PRESUMABLY COVERED BY THE PROTESTANTISM LABEL AND SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC CHURCHES ON THE POSITIVE LIST AND THE "ET CETERA" ON THE NEGATIVE LIST HAS NATURALLY CAUSED WORRIES THAT PROTESTANT SECTS NOT MENTIONED COULD HAVE TROUBLES.

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5. THE EMBASSY, OF COURSE, WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY AND REPORT ON ANY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING AMERICAN CITIZENS.  
PALMER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Film Number:** D780201-0046  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARTY DECISION TO ABOLISH CERTAIN TOGOLESE RELIGIOUS SECTS  
**TAGS:** CASC, PINT, SHUM, TO, RPT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a0288ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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